United Nations A/C.4/59/L.1

General Assembly

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22 September 2004

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Fifty-ninth session
Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee)

Organization of work

Note by the Chairman

1. The agenda items allocated by the General Assembly to the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) for consideration are listed in document A/C.4/59/1. Background information on those items, including references to related documentation, is set out in the annotated preliminary list of items to be included in the provisional agenda of the fifty-ninth session (A/59/100).[1]

2. The General Assembly, in rule 99, paragraph (b), of its rules of procedure, calls on each Main Committee to adopt a programme of work indicating, if possible, a target date for the conclusion of its work, the approximate dates of consideration of items and the number of meetings to be allocated for the consideration of each item.

3. The General Assembly decided that the fifty-ninth session should recess not later than Tuesday, 14 December 2004, and that, inter alia, the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) should complete its work by Thursday, 11 November 2004 (see A/59/250, paras. 13 and 14).

4. To that end, the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) may wish to consider adopting as a provisional guideline the approximate dates set out below for the consideration of the items on its agenda with the understanding that it may be revised periodically, as appropriate, according to the availability of related documents. The Committee will also combine consideration of specific items on its agenda in order to ensure full and efficient utilization of the conference facilities allocated to it. As indicated below, Conference Services has allocated 27 meetings to the Committee and it has urged the Committee to make every effort to complete its work within the allotted time. Should the Committee wish to change the dates for consideration of items, it would still have to work within the dates and times indicated below.

04-51904 (E) 240904

Agenda items	*Dates for consideration*
Organization of work	30 September — a.m.
Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples (item 20)	4 October — p.m. 5 October — p.m. 6 October — p.m. 7 October — p.m. 8 October — p.m.
Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories transmitted under Article 73 *e* of the Charter of the United Nations (item 79)	
Economic and other activities which affect the interests of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories (item 80)	
Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations (item 81)	
Offers by Member States of study and training facilities for inhabitants of Non-Self-Governing Territories (item 82)	
International cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space (item 74)	11 October — a.m. 12 October — a.m. 13 October — a.m. 18 October — p.m.
Effects of atomic radiation (item 73)	14 October — a.m. 15 October — a.m.
Questions relating to information (item 78) [Programme 23, Public information (Programme planning (item 109))]	19 October — p.m. 20 October — p.m. 21 October — p.m.
Comprehensive review of the whole question of peacekeeping operations in all their aspects (item 77)	25 October — a.m. 26 October — a.m. 27 October — a.m.
Assistance in mine action (item 22)	28 October — a.m. 29 October — a.m.
United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (item 75)	1 November — p.m. 2 November — p.m. 4 November — p.m.
Report of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories (item 76)	8 November — a.m. 9 November — a.m. 10 November — a.m. 11 November — a.m.

5. In the preparation of the above timetable, the Chairman was guided by the following considerations:

(a) In accordance with established procedures and practices and bearing in mind the availability of documentation, the Committee may wish to hold one general debate covering agenda items 20, 79, 80, 81 and 82 and individual debates on agenda items 22, 73-78 and 109, on the understanding that draft resolutions and/or decisions will be considered separately;

(b) Pursuant to paragraph 4 (i) of section D of the annex to General Assembly resolution 58/316, the item entitled "Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples" (item 20) has been allocated for annual consideration in the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) as a whole;

(c) Representatives of Non-Self-Governing Territories and petitioners will be heard as early as possible during the Committee's consideration of the related items;

(d) Pursuant to paragraph 4 (j) of section D of the annex to General Assembly resolution 58/316, the item entitled "Assistance in mine action" has been allocated for consideration every other year in the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee);

(e) The Assembly decided, on 17 September 2004, to allocate programme 23, Public information, under the item entitled "Programme planning" (item 109) to the Special Political and Decolonization Committee for review and action and for subsequent submission to the Fifth Committee for its consideration in the context of the overall strategic framework for the period 2006-2007.

6. Subject to the above provisional programme of work being acceptable to the Committee and in order to facilitate its work, the Chairman wishes to suggest that the list of speakers in the general debate covering agenda items 20, 79, 80, 81 and 82 be closed on Monday, 4 October, at 6 p.m. The Committee will take decisions relating to the general debates on the remaining items at the appropriate time.

7. The Chairman wishes also to draw attention to the decisions of the General Assembly on the organization of its work contained in document A/59/250, sections II.B to III.

8. Members are also requested to bear in mind the General Assembly's decision that morning and afternoon meetings should start promptly at 10 a.m. and 3 p.m., both for all plenary meetings and for meetings of the Main Committees during the fifty-ninth session. It was also decided that during the final two weeks of Ramadan, from 1 to 11 November 2004, when local time will be Eastern Standard Time, the hours of the plenary meetings and the meetings of the Main Committees should be from 9.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. and from 2.30 p.m. to 5.30 p.m. at the latest (see A/59/250, para. 16). Members' attention is also drawn to the Assembly's decision to waive at its fifty-ninth session the quorum required, under rule 108 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, for the Chairman to declare a meeting open and permit the debate to proceed (see A/59/250, para. 19).

9. In view of the limited number of meetings available to the Committee, it is suggested that the time limit for statements be set at 10 minutes, with the exception of statements made by the spokespersons of groups of delegations, which would be extended to 15 minutes.

10. In order to allow the distribution of prepared texts of statements made in the Committee to delegations, specialized agencies, observers, interpreters and record-writers, 300 copies are required. A minimum of 30 copies should be given in advance of delivery of the statement in order to help the Secretariat to provide the best possible service.

11. The list of documents submitted under the various agenda items allocated to the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) is contained in document A/C.4/59/INF/1.

Notes

[1] For the final list of agenda items adopted by the General Assembly, see document A/59/251.

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General Assembly

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1 October 2004

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Fifty-ninth session

Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee)

Agenda item 20

Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples

Draft decision: Papua New Guinea*

Increase in the membership of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples

The General Assembly decides to increase the membership of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples from twenty-five to twenty-six and to appoint Dominica as a member of the Committee.

* On behalf of States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples.

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Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee)
Agenda item 20
Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples

Congo, Cuba, Mali, Papua New Guinea, Russian Federation, Saint Lucia and Syrian Arab Republic: draft resolution

Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples

The General Assembly,

Having examined the report of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples,[1]

Recalling its resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960, containing the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, and all its subsequent resolutions concerning the implementation of the Declaration, most recently resolution 58/111 of 9 December 2003, as well as the relevant resolutions of the Security Council,

Bearing in mind the declaration of the period 2001–2010 as the Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism and the need to examine ways to ascertain the wishes of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories on the basis of resolution 1514 (XV) and other relevant resolutions on decolonization,

Recognizing that the eradication of colonialism has been one of the priorities of the Organization and continues to be one of its priorities for the decade that began in 2001,

Reconfirming the need to take measures to eliminate colonialism before 2010, as called for in its resolution 55/146 of 8 December 2000,

[1] *Official Records of the General Assembly Fifty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 23* (A/59/23).

04-53220 (E) 041004

Reiterating its conviction of the need for the eradication of colonialism, as well as of racial discrimination and violations of basic human rights,

Noting with satisfaction the achievements of the Special Committee in contributing to the effective and complete implementation of the Declaration and other relevant resolutions of the United Nations on decolonization,

Stressing the importance of the participation of the administering Powers in the work of the Special Committee,

Noting with satisfaction the cooperation and active participation of some administering Powers in the work of the Special Committee, and encouraging the others also to do so,

Taking note of the fact that the Special Committee held a Pacific regional seminar on advancing the decolonization process in the Pacific region in Papua New Guinea from 18 to 20 May 2004,[2]

1. *Reaffirms* its resolution 1514 (XV) and all other resolutions and decisions on decolonization, including its resolution 55/146, in which it declared the period 2001-2010 the Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism, and calls upon the administering Powers, in accordance with those resolutions, to take all necessary steps to enable the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories concerned to exercise fully as soon as possible their right to self-determination, including independence;

2. *Reaffirms once again* that the existence of colonialism in any form or manifestation, including economic exploitation, is incompatible with the Charter of the United Nations, the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights;[3]

3. *Reaffirms its determination* to continue to take all steps necessary to bring about the complete and speedy eradication of colonialism and the faithful observance by all States of the relevant provisions of the Charter, the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights;

4. *Affirms once again its support* for the aspirations of the peoples under colonial rule to exercise their right to self-determination, including independence, in accordance with relevant resolutions of the United Nations on decolonization;

5. *Approves* the report of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples covering its work during 2004, including the programme of work envisaged for 2005;[4]

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[2] Ibid., chap. II, annex.

[3] Resolution 217 A (III).

[4] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 23* (A/59/23), chap. I, sect. J.

6. *Calls upon* the administering Powers to cooperate fully with the Special Committee to finalize before the end of 2005 a constructive programme of work on a case-by-case basis for the Non-Self-Governing Territories to facilitate the implementation of the mandate of the Special Committee and the relevant resolutions on decolonization, including resolutions on specific Territories;

7. *Welcomes* the progress made in the ongoing consultations between the Special Committee and New Zealand, as administering Power for Tokelau, with the participation of representatives of the people of Tokelau, as evidenced by the decision of the General Fono of Tokelau in November 2003 to actively explore with New Zealand the option of self-government in free association;

8. *Requests* the Special Committee to continue to seek suitable means for the immediate and full implementation of the Declaration and to carry out the actions approved by the General Assembly regarding the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism and the Second International Decade in all Territories that have not yet exercised their right to self-determination, including independence, and in particular:

(a) To formulate specific proposals to bring about an end to colonialism and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its sixtieth session;

(b) To continue to examine the implementation by Member States of resolution 1514 (XV) and other relevant resolutions on decolonization;

(c) To continue to examine the political, economic and social situation in the Non-Self-Governing Territories, and to recommend, as appropriate, to the General Assembly the most suitable steps to be taken to enable the populations of those Territories to exercise their right to self-determination, including independence, in accordance with relevant resolutions on decolonization, including resolutions on specific Territories;

(d) To finalize before the end of 2005 a constructive programme of work on a case-by-case basis for the Non-Self-Governing Territories to facilitate the implementation of the mandate of the Special Committee and the relevant resolutions on decolonization, including resolutions on specific Territories;

(e) To continue to dispatch visiting missions to the Non-Self-Governing Territories in accordance with relevant resolutions on decolonization, including resolutions on specific Territories;

(f) To conduct seminars, as appropriate, for the purpose of receiving and disseminating information on the work of the Special Committee, and to facilitate participation by the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories in those seminars;

(g) To take all necessary steps to enlist worldwide support among Governments, as well as national and international organizations, for the achievement of the objectives of the Declaration and the implementation of the relevant resolutions of the United Nations;

(h) To observe annually the Week of Solidarity with the Peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories;[5]

[5] See resolution 2911 (XXVII).

9. *Calls upon* all States, in particular the administering Powers, as well as the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system, to give effect within their respective spheres of competence to the recommendations of the Special Committee for the implementation of the Declaration and other relevant resolutions of the United Nations;

10. *Calls upon* the administering Powers to ensure that the economic activities in the Non-Self-Governing Territories under their administration do not adversely affect the interests of the peoples but instead promote development, and to assist them in the exercise of their right to self-determination;

11. *Urges* the administering Powers concerned to take effective measures to safeguard and guarantee the inalienable rights of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories to their natural resources, including land, and to establish and maintain control over the future development of those resources, and requests the administering Powers to take all necessary steps to protect the property rights of the peoples of those Territories;

12. *Urges* all States, directly and through their action in the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system, to provide moral and material assistance to the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories, and requests that the administering Powers take steps to enlist and make effective use of all possible assistance, on both a bilateral and a multilateral basis, in the strengthening of the economies of those Territories;

13. *Reaffirms* that the United Nations visiting missions to the Territories are an effective means of ascertaining the situation in the Territories, as well as the wishes and aspirations of their inhabitants, and calls upon the administering Powers to continue to cooperate with the Special Committee in the discharge of its mandate and to facilitate visiting missions to the Territories;

14. *Calls upon* the administering Powers that have not participated formally in the work of the Special Committee to do so at its session in 2005;

15. *Requests* the Secretary-General, the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system to provide economic, social and other assistance to the Non-Self-Governing Territories and to continue to do so, as appropriate, after they exercise their right to self-determination, including independence;

16. *Requests* the Secretary-General to provide the Special Committee with the facilities and services required for the implementation of the present resolution, as well as of the other resolutions and decisions on decolonization adopted by the General Assembly and the Special Committee.

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Fifty-ninth session
Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee)
Agenda item 20
Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples

Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Cuba, Ethiopia, Fiji, Grenada, Jamaica, Kenya, Lesotho, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Nigeria, South Africa, Timor-Leste, United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe: draft resolution

Question of Western Sahara

The General Assembly,

Having considered in depth the question of Western Sahara,

Reaffirming the inalienable right of all peoples to self-determination and independence, in accordance with the principles set forth in the Charter of the United Nations and General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960 containing the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples,

Recalling its resolution 58/109 of 17 December 2004,

Recalling also all resolutions of the General Assembly and the Security Council on the question of Western Sahara,

Recalling further Security Council resolutions 658 (1990) of 27 June 1990 and 690 (1991) of 29 April 1991, by which the Security Council approved the settlement plan for Western Sahara,[1]

Recalling Security Council resolutions 1359 (2001) of 29 June 2001 and 1429 (2002) of 30 July 2002, as well as resolution 1495 (2003) of 31 July 2003, in which the Council expressed its support of the peace plan for self-determination of the people of Western Sahara[2] as an optimum political solution on the basis of agreement between the two parties, and resolution 1541 (2004) of 29 April 2004,

[1] See S/21360 and S/22464 and Corr.1.
[2] S/2003/565 and Corr.1, annex II.

04-53666 (E) 061004

Taking note of the responses of the parties and neighbouring States to the Personal Envoy of the Secretary-General, concerning the peace plan, contained in the report of the Secretary-General of 23 May 2003,[3]

Reaffirming the responsibility of the United Nations towards the people of Western Sahara,

Noting with satisfaction the entry into force of the ceasefire in accordance with the proposal made by the Secretary-General,[4] and stressing the importance it attaches to the maintenance of the ceasefire as an integral part of the settlement plan,

Underlining, in this regard, the validity of the settlement plan, while noting the fundamental differences between the parties in its implementation,

Stressing that the lack of progress in the settlement of the dispute on Western Sahara continues to cause suffering to the people of Western Sahara, remains a source of potential instability in the region and obstructs the economic development of the Maghreb region and that, in view of this, the search for a political solution is critically needed,

Welcoming the efforts of the Secretary-General in search of a mutually acceptable political solution, which will provide for self-determination of the people of Western Sahara,

Having examined the relevant chapter of the report of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples,[5]

Having also examined the report of the Secretary-General,[4]

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;[4]

2. *Underlines* Security Council resolution 1495 (2003), in which the Council expressed its support of the peace plan for self-determination of the people of Western Sahara as an optimum political solution on the basis of agreement between the two parties;

3. *Continues to support strongly* the efforts of the Secretary-General in order to achieve a mutually acceptable political solution to the dispute over Western Sahara;

4. *Commends* the Secretary-General for his outstanding efforts and the two parties for the spirit of cooperation they have shown in the support they provide for those efforts;

5. *Calls upon* all the parties and the States of the region to cooperate fully with the Secretary-General;

6. *Reaffirms* the responsibility of the United Nations towards the people of Western Sahara;

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[3] S/2003/565 and Corr.1.

[4] See A/58/171.

[5] See A/58/23 (Part II), chap. VIII. For the final text, see *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 23*.

7. *Calls upon* the parties to cooperate with the International Committee of the Red Cross in its efforts to solve the problem of the fate of the people unaccounted for, and calls upon the parties to abide by their obligations under international humanitarian law to release without further delay all those held since the start of the conflict;

8. *Requests* the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples to continue to consider the situation in Western Sahara and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its fifty-ninth session;

9. *Invites* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-ninth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution.